

P20416.A08

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 0014 bridging pages 3 and 4 of the specification with the following paragraph (see Appendix 1 for changes):

B *1*
[0014] In order to improve or support the effective separation of the suction elements, a blowing element may also be provided in the area of the separation point, e.g., positioned inside the loop of the outer belt. This blowing element may suitably be embodied such that it affects the outer belt at least essentially over its entire width. The blowing medium may be water, air, or the like; however air is a preferred medium.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 22 as follows (a marked-up version of the amended claims is submitted in Appendix 2 attached at the end of this Amendment):

31bC1
B2
1. (Amended) A former for producing a tissue web, comprising:
a forming element, an inner dewatering belt, and an outer dewatering belt;
the inner and outer belts converging to form a stock inlet nip;
the inner and outer belts being guided over the forming element and thereafter separating from one another in the area of a separation point;
at least one suction element positioned adjacent the inner belt on a side which is opposite the outer belt; and